MY VOICE

Educational reform needs to be next

ALEC ITALIANO

sports editor

I don't think people realize exactly what the word "reform" means nowadays.

Reform is what shaped this country, and is partially responsible for the start of the Civil

This wave of passion and reconstruction was sparked by President Abraham Lincoln, who is considered one of the presidents that turned America into what it is today: a powerhouse in the global realm.

Obama is attempting to do the same with an almost as hollow America that Lincoln dealt with, but with less passion. Less motivation by the American people to realize that they are re-writing the history books for the future in what is accomplished, or not accomplished, in just the next few short years.

The new question for current college students should be what are we going to write in the history books for generations to come? More world hatred toward a country destroying global markets? I surely hope not.

Until recently with the health care reform there has not been a major national reform policy that has been put through Congress since the great "New Deal" days of the FDR era.

by America, from the average

Capitol Hill, the future looks bleak.

Now, I am not saying Obama is doing the best job he can for the simple reasons that nothing has been carried through and that one major reform has been put on the back burner: education.

The No.1 thing that comes to mind when thinking about future should be educational reform. Our public high schools have slipped through the cracks of American society in a way that not all kids have an equal opportunity walking out of high school.

The future of this country is in the hands of people who must have the courage to stand up and call for changes in situa-

tions where we see problems. Every high school graduate has lived through the problems that arise in the public schooling

In my own personal experi-Without a massive realization ence, the teachers went on strike for a brief period because

NO..NO...YOU HAVE TO PUT QUOTATION MARKS AROUND HOW TO CENSOR GOOGLE!!

businessman to a senator on they felt they were not being compensated enough for their extra duties as teachers.

> All in all, the poor budgeting skills of administrations coupled with a very impatient population that feels it is paying entirely too much in taxes makes for a very weak educational system.

Citizens do not undertand that it is their lack of education that elected the ineffectual people that are causing this malfunction. Other couneducatries' tional reform systems are

and leaps bounds ahead of the United The States. rench system unique, alloating free colege tuition to any French citizen who is willing to put forth the effort.

Every French

student takes a high school exit exam called the Baccalaureate exam (the Bac for short). Basically this exam places

students into universities based on the results of this test and is taken extremely seriously in France. Some high school students even take a fifth year of high school to prepare for it.

The focus right now in Washington seems to be consumed primarily by the health care bill that is trying to be put into motion. However, we as a nation have jumped the gun here.

There is no doubt in my mind that reformed health care would benefit this country as a whole and would be a huge step forward in the furthering development of America.

But educational reform should have been the first priority for those politicians who are battling it out on Capitol Hill.

The Bush administration tried desperately to impose these sanctions, and although the intentions were to help school districts, the No Child Left Behind Act failed miserably and only seemed to reveal even more problems in the educational system.

Getting into a high school with qualified teachers will soon be a battle -much like it is for college students- and the implications could be horrific. The battle for reform must be won if anyone reading this paper wants to give their children a fighting chance in this rapidly changing, corrupted world.

MY VOICE

A pleasant surprise when turning 21

There are major milestones in our young lives that we all spend years looking forward to.

The first, of course, is turning 10. For whatever reason, when you are nine years old, nothing is more exciting than the thought of finally hitting double digits. Becoming a teenager at 13 can only be topped by turning 16 and getting that driver's license that your parents wish you weren't old enough to

At the age of 18, you finally become an "adult" and can finally buy all of those cigarettes and adult entertainment you've been looking forward to.

As college students, we have all experienced the excitement of reaching these points in our lives, and of course, we continue to wait for the most exciting one.

At 20 years old, 2009 crawled by as I waited for Dec. 14 to roll around to celebrate the final milestone of a young life that every college student anticipates: turning 21.

While many may tell you that turning 21 is more anticlimactic than you think or that the excitement fades quickly. I'd like to reassure you that turning 21 is everything that it is built up

Although I heard the same negativity in the months before my birthday, my 21st was everything that I had hoped it would be and more. I had so much fun, not only because I was on my way to being 21 shots deep, but because my friends and family were so excited to help me celebrate the occasion and make it memorable.

Turning 21 is like joining a club, and everyone who is already a member can't wait to initiate you and share the legal drinking experience. You'll find this to be very true in the weeks following your birthday, when free drinks will be flying in vour direction before vou can even finish your last one.

However, turning 21 is about more than the drinking. A whole new social environment is opened up to you, and although there may be downsides, such as the expense, there will never be another opportunity to say, "there's nothing to do tonight."

A 21st birthday is also about celebrating adulthood. At this point, you have reached the age where nothing (legal) is off limits. While this may not sound like much, there is value in this freedom that I definitely came to appreciate.

You will only have one

21st birthday. Just as you commemorated birthday before, perhaps with a super sleep-over, a driver's test, or even a trip to AdultMart, celebrate your 21st to the fullest. Personally, I know that my friends and I will never forget the memories that we made on our 21st's. So, don't let the negativity of others get to you. Go out, get wild, and make it an experience to remember.



staff writer

MY VOICE

Big Ben goes unprotected

SHAWN ANNARELLI managing editor

When will Steelers quarter-

back Ben Roethlisberger learn to use protection? He could not have been more protected on March 5 when he

crossed paths with a 20-yearold Georgia College and State female student at Capital City, a Midgeville, Georgia night club. His entourage included Steel-

ers right tackle Willie Colon, off-duty Coraopolis police officer Anthony J. Barravecchio, off-duty Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Ed Joyner and several more unidentified men.

Let's start with Ben's obvious

protection here: Willie Colon. Colon is Roethlisberger's starting right tackle three years running. He is part of an offensive line that has allowed Roethlisberger to be sacked 143 times in the last three seasons. Never mind, maybe he is not the best protection after all.

Well, maybe the pair of police officers with Roethlisberger could have steered him away from a young lady that is probably still living with her parents. Nah, he will be fine.

Right? Wrong.

This is the second time in less than a year that Roethlisberger has been accused of sexual as-

It is a damning trend in professional athletics that simply does not show any signs of slowing down. Say hello Tiger Woods, Kobe Bryant and Tom Brady. Okay, Brady, as far as I know, has never been accused of any sexual conduct crimes, but that does not mean I cannot have a deeply profound dislike for him.

What is the solution for athletes that cannot stay away from 20-something no-name fe-

As ridiculous as they may seem, here are a few alternatives for these athletes with a problem.

Get married and mean it. I know, this is probably the last thing these guys want to hear. Bryant allegedly sexually assaulted a 20-year-old Colorado woman in 2003. He since reached a settlement with his accuser and somehow managed to remain married. Maybe it was the \$4 million ring he bought for his wife after admitting his infidelity. Marriage is

not the best option after all. Maybe these guys could have police escorts with them when they go to clubs and casinos. Oh, wait. See paragraphs number two and five of this article.

Here is a crazy idea, boys: The next attractive woman you see, say hi, how are you, would you like to eat dinner Friday

Nah, would not work. There is just not enough not risk or legalities involved.

Meeting 20-something-yearold college undergraduates and cheating on your wives or simply coming on too strong is a much better route to take.

Right? Wrong.

All profile photos taken by Daniel Smith / Behrend Beacon

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Executive Board

MY VOICE

Obama's hand.

them that much.

aforementioned

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first say this: I know politics

like the back of Barack

Having never seen his freak-

ishly lengthy hands in person,

one can assume that I do not

understand politics, and I can

add that I do not care about

It seems, however, that every-

one has a vested interest in this

new health care bill being

passed. Here's what I get from

it: millions of uninsured Amer-

icans will be gaining health

care. Point blank, that's what it

I haven't seen teenagers talk

about politics like this since the

popular emergence of the

Barack Obama. I've seen Face-

book statuses dedicated to peo-

ple's opinions on the health

care bill. I've seen statuses

such as "Republicans make me

laugh," and "Great, now we

have to pay for lazy, unem-

ployed people's health care."

So-called Republicans and De-

mocrats are arguing with each

The Behrend Beacon

BRANDON BOYD

senior writer

anything.

While most of us live in much that tax will be, but I

Why we should support health care

they have absolutely no hand in nose and a cough, there are

Before I get started, let me other over a health care bill that doctor when we have a stuffy

Maybe that's why I hate

I don't care whether

you are Republican, De-

mocrat, part of the

Green Party, or part

health

of the Party in

my Pants Party.

It's time to

take a look at

care bill hu-

manely and

with a sense

of compas-

As some-

consider him-

self as a part

of any party,

who

let me offer an unbiased point

of view. While I'm not quite

sure if this was the right health

care bill, I can say that some-

a world where we can go to the

thing needed to be done.

this

sion.

one

president,

Business Manager

Bethany Long

bil5037@psu.edu

Faculty Advisor:

doesn't

deciding, yet pay for.

politics.

we are now finally helping so

that we, in return, can buy the

latest version of everything and

can't imagine it being anything

Now, I have no idea how

people out there without health

hospital.

care that are gravely ill and

can't afford to go to the

Are some of them lazy

and unable to get a job?

Absolutely. But there

are those out there that

for whatever reason

are unable to hold

a job. And for

those that truly

need help, this

bill will likely be

providing them

through a few

ing in a mate-

rialistic world, we

turn a blind eye to

these people that

tax dollars.

care

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ridiculous. Why not save up

your change, deposit it all

around tax season and pay for

it that way? Instead of thinking

about yourself, why not think

I'm not just talking about this

health care bill; I'm talking

about life. We all have times

where we wish someone would

lend us a helping hand. You

know what it's like to be in

their Nikes (or, in the case of

those helped by the health care

You know, in 2008, teens

around the world backed

Barack Obama, backing his

campaign of "change we can

Here's some change that I

can believe in: maybe it's time

to stop thinking about having

and start giving. Even just a

If you refuse to help those

who can't afford health care.

why not help those in despair,

those who don't have anything

to wear, or those who need help

small step can help.

with a repair?

Yes we can.

Telephone: (814) 898-6488

Fax: (814) 898-6019

believe in."

bill, their dollar store shoes).

about the rest of humanity.

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